Flexible Complementing Scheme

5905. SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the serious discontentment amongst the Technical and Scientific Officers Association of the Central Pollution Control Board over the non-implementation of Flexible Complementing Scheme for promotion of the Board;

(b) if so, the precise reasons for not implementing the said scheme in the Department;

(c) whether the Government have received any memorandum from the Association of the Officers of the Board in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (d) Some representations from Technical and Scientific Officers Association" of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) have been received in the Ministry seeking introduction of the Flexible Complementing Scheme in the CPCB. The Ministry of Environment and Forests have taken up the question regarding extending the scheme to the CPCB with the Department of Personnel and Training.

[Translation]

Capital Investment in Agriculture

5906. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prof. Hanumant Rao had submitted any report for encouraging capital investment in Agriculture Sector to increase the agricultural productivity in the country; and

(b) if so, the action being taken by the Government for the implementation of said report?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) No such report for encouraging capital investment in agriculture sector to increase the agricultural productivity in the country has been submitted by Prof. Hanumantha Rao.

(b) Does not arise.

Duplicate Pesticides

5907. SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers are getting duplicate pesticides as a result of which they do not get any benefit;

(b) the number of factories manufacturing duplicate pesticides detected and booked till date during the last two years; and

(c) the details of steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) State Departments of Agriculture are taking to legal recourse to ensure that farmers do not get duplicate pesticides.

(b) and (c) During the last 2 years (1995-96 and 1996-97), Directorates of Agriculture of Punjab and Haryana have detected 4 and 1 factories in respective states manufacturing duplicate pesticides Consequently following action have been taken by these States:

(i) Punjab has lodged 'First Information Reports' under Section 7 of the Essential Commodities Act, in all the four cases, with the respective Police Stations.

(ii) Haryana has also lodged 'First Information Report' against the firm manufacturing duplicate pesticides.

(iii) To check the manufacture and sale of duplicate pesticides, Department of Agriculture, Punjab has set-up special teams of officers at block, district and a flying-squad at the State levels.

(iv) Department of Agriculture, Haryana is maintaining a strict vigil both on factories manufacturing pesticides as well as dealers and retailers of pesticides. Accordingly, regular and thorough checking of stocks of pesticides of dealers, suppliers and manufacturers is being carried out by the Enforcement Staff of the State Department of Agriculture.

Other major pesticides consuming States have reported about their efforts to ensure availability of quality pesticides to farmers and launching of prosecution against the suppliers of mis-branded (sub-standard) pesticides under the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968.